

## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## Milwaukee County

SCOTT WALKER . COUNTY EXECUTIVE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Walker Announces Restaurants at Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport Receive Top National Airport Concessions Awards

Nonna Bartolotta's "Best New Concept" and Alterra "Best 'Green' Concept"

Milwaukee WI, November 17, 2010 — Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker today announced that two restaurants at General Mitchell International Airport took top honors in two categories of the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) 2010 Excellence in Airport Concessions Contest.

In winning 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the category <u>Best New Food and Beverage Concept</u>, Milwaukee's own **Nonna Bartolotta's**, operated by SSP America, beat out new restaurants at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport and Los Angeles International Airport.

Milwaukee-based **Alterra Coffee**, also operated by SSP America, won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the <u>Best "Green"</u> <u>Concession Practice or Concept</u> category over a concession concept at Denver International Airport.

In addition, Dick Dickson, Chairman of **The Paradies Shops**, which operates news and gift concessions at General Mitchell International Airport, was named <u>Concession Person of the Year</u>.

Walker said, "We are fortunate to have visionaries in the Bartolotta and Alterra groups who invested in an opportunity to showcase their great food and beverage concepts at the airport."

The awards were announced during the 2010 ACI-NA Airport Concessions Conference in Phoenix, at which more than 300 representatives of the U.S. and Canadian airport concessions industry were in attendance. According to ACI-NA, the purpose of the Excellence in Airport Concessions Contest is to inspire creativity in the industry and to recognize innovative and outstanding airport concessions. Entries for this year's contest were judged by an independent panel comprised of high-level professionals with no vested interest in concession operations, or the outcome of any one airport. In addition to the independent panel, one representative from the previous year's overall winner was also involved in the judging process.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation & Public Works, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation. For more information on Mitchell International, visit www.mitchellairport.com.

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